

Purpose of Certification

The purpose of trauma center certification in Alaska is to:

Promote the health and safety of the people of Alaska by setting minimum standards for hospitals or medical clinics to voluntarily meet the standards to represent themselves as trauma centers. The criteria for certification are adopted by the department based on the standards established by the Committee on Trauma of the American College of Surgeons.

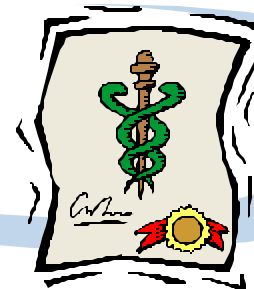


Medical facilities certified as trauma care centers have made a commitment to meet and maintain the standards outlined in *Alaska Administrative Code, Title 7, Chapter 26, Article 7*.

There are four levels of certification. Level I, II, III, and IV. These are described within this pamphlet and detailed in 7 AAC 26.710—7 ACC 26.999.

Trauma Center Certification in Alaska

Trauma centers are an important part of Alaska's trauma care system. A trauma care system provides organized and timely response to traumatic injury.



TRAUMA CENTERS ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF ALASKA'S TRAUMA CARE SYSTEM. A TRAUMA CARE SYSTEM PROVIDES ORGANIZED AND TIMELY RESPONSE TO TRAUMATIC INJURY.

For more information about trauma center certification, contact our office:

Community Health and EMS
Division of Public Health
Department of Health and Social Services
P. O. Box 110616
Juneau, AK 99811-0616
(907) 465-3027
(907) 465-4101 FAX



Certification as a trauma center in Alaska means:

- The hospital has demonstrated commitment to providing the best trauma care possible by allowing experts to review procedures, protocols and resources.
- The hospital meets state and national standards for providing timely and optimal care for the trauma patient.
- The hospital is prepared to treat and transport a trauma patient according to Alaska's system-wide plan.

Applying for Certification

The certification process for trauma centers in Alaska is straightforward.

- ◆ Contact the Section of Community Health and EMS for a pre-review packet for the level of trauma center certification being sought by the facility.
- ◆ Level I, II, and III applicants need to arrange for and successfully complete a verification visit by the Committee on Trauma of the American College of Surgeons.
 - After the verification visit, complete the application and submit it along with a copy of the certificate of verification from the Committee on Trauma of the American College of Surgeons, to the Section of Community Health and EMS.
- ◆ For Level IV certification, the facility must meet the criteria for Level IV Trauma facilities established by the Committee on Trauma of the American College of Surgeons, and submit a *Request for Verification Site Visit* to Community Health and EMS.
- ◆ Level I, II, III, and IV hospital applicants must participate in the Alaska Trauma Registry to qualify for trauma center certification.
- ◆ A State of Alaska trauma center certificate will be issued to applicants successfully meeting the requirements.
- ◆ Certification is valid for three years.

Level I Regional Resource Center

The Level I Trauma Center should be a regional resource center and will generally serve large cities or population -dense areas. Emergency physicians, nurses and surgeons are in-house and immediately available to the trauma patient. A Level I trauma center is responsible for providing leadership in research, professional and community education, and system planning. There are no Level I Trauma Centers in Alaska because, under ACS criteria, Level I centers must conduct trauma research and teach trauma care physicians. Cities in Alaska do not have the patient loads to support these activities.

Level II Regional Trauma Center

Level II Trauma Centers provide comprehensive trauma care. In Alaska, Level II trauma centers serve as the lead trauma facilities for a geographical area. Emergency physicians and nurses are in-house and available to direct patient care and initiate resuscitation and stabilization. Prompt availability of general surgeons is required. A Level II trauma center provides educational outreach and prevention programs and assumes responsibility for trauma system leadership in the absence of a Level I trauma center.

Level III Area Trauma Center

The Level III Trauma Center provides assessment, resuscitation, emergency surgery, and stabilization and, for the most critically injured patients, arranges for transfer to a Level I or Level II trauma center that can provide further definitive surgical care. A general surgeon must be promptly available and the facility must be involved with prevention and have an active outreach program for its referring communities.

Level IV Local Trauma Stabilization Center

Level IV trauma centers are rural facilities that provide initial evaluation and assessment of injured patients prior to transfer to a larger facility. Rural hospitals and medical clinics with mid-level practitioners or physicians are eligible for Level IV certification. It is essential that trained personnel and equipment are available and treatment protocols are in place along with data reporting.